under a scheme called Panchayat Dak Sewa;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is proposed to be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) It is the desire of the Government that Postal facilities should be provided to all Gram Panchayats in the country within a reasonable period. The scheme of panchayat dak sewaks is one of the means envisaged for fulfilling this objective.

(b) The details of the scheme are as follows:

(i) A resolution is passed by the gram panchayat seeking participation in the scheme. The name of the local volunteer who would serve as Panchayat Dak Sewak is also specified in the resolution.

(ii) On receipt of the resolution, the Superintendent of Post Offices of the area concerned will issue an authority to the dak to sewak enable him to collect/deliver postal articles.

(iii) A recurring grant of Rs. 150/- per month is given to the gram panchayat for payment to the PDS. In addition, the PDS is also entitled to commission on sale of postage stamps and stationery in the panchayat area at the following rates:

Sale per month	Rate of Commission
Upto Rs. 100 . . .	5%
Rs. 101 to Rs. 200/- . .	7.5%
Rs. 201 and above . . .	10%

(iv) The following services are provided by the PDS:

(1) Clearance of letter box installed at the Panchayat Office and conveying the mail to Post Office;

(2) Sale of postage stamps and stationery;

(3) Booking of registered items and their transfer to Post Office;

(4) Delivery of unregistered articles in the panchayat area if required to do so by the Superintendent of Post Offices.

(Delivery of registered/insured/value payable items and payment of money orders is to be done by post office employees only).

(c) The scheme is already in operation on an experimental basis in 2902 gram panchayats in the different States. Depending on the results of the experiment, the scheme may be extend to more panchayats.

Manufactur of VCR/VCP

*204. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of large scale smuggling of Japanese made VCRs and VCPs into the country from Bangladesh, as reported in the Hindustan Times, daetd the 30th June, 1989; if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard;

(b) what is the estimated production, if any, of VCRs and VCPs within the country and the extent to which it falls short of the demand;

(c) whether a Letter of Intent from the Department of Electronics or permission from any other Ministry/Department is required for the small-scale sector for manufacturing of VCR/VCP and maximum recommended capacity;

(d) what administrative and technical difficulties Government are having for not encouraging indigenous manufacturing/not assumbling of VCR/VCP;

(e) what encouragement, if any, has been given by Government for indigenous manufacture of VCRs and VCPs to make the product available at reasonable prices to check their smuggling into the country; and

(f) by when the indigenous manufacturing/assembling policy of VCR/VCP would be relaxed for the small scale sector to stop illegal smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (f) Government are aware of the Press Report. As per available data, the production of VCRs/VCPs in the country during the year 1988 was 44,405 numbers. VCRs/VCPs are also being brought into the country through personal baggage.

Office of the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industry (SSI) in consultation with Department of Electronics (Administrative Ministry) has the responsibility to approve VCRs/VCPs production programme in SSI sector.

To meet the growing demand of VCRs/VCPs in the country which can only roughly be estimated at this stage, the Governmen had invited composite applications (Industrial Licence and Foreign Collaboration) for the manufacture of VCRs/VCPs from units which are prepared to commit sizeable investments for suitable vertical integration with an accelerated phased manufacturing programme and which have the requisite in-built capacity to keep pace with the changing technology.

Three units have already been granted Letters of Intent (LOIs) and Foreign Collaboration (FC) approvals, out of which one has been converted into Industrial Licence (IL) for manufacture VCRs/VCPs in the Country with an annual capacity of 3 lakhs nos. each. To ensure that the SSI units which have obtained VCR/VCP approvals in 1980-82 and are presently in operation get their supply of Video-Tape Deck Mechanisms (VIDMs) indigenously, a condition has been put in the LOIs/IL granted that "The Company would Supply 50% of the production of VTDMS to other VCR/VCP assemblers". With the establishment of adequate capacity, the demand of VCRs/VCPs in the country is expected to be met. Anti-smuggling drive has also been intensified.

Restriction on Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone

*205. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 120 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd May, 1989 and state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare took a decision not to ban the use of Phenylbutazone and Oxyphenbutazone but to restrict it for a particular disease only;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure that these drugs not misused;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Kelkar Committee took a decision to exempt these drugs from price control on the ground that these drugs were being banned shortly;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not communicating this decision to the Kelkar Committee and the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals; and

(e) what steps are being taken to communicate this decision to the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals and by when the communication would be sent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. (*See* below)

(d) and (e) do not arise.